

# **Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**February 18, 2015**

**A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, February 18, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman**

**Member Present: Cheryl Boergesson, Ian Clemmey, Mark Donahue, Mason Hawes, Austin Prendergast and Ralph Thomas**

**Members Absent: Lisa Cinquegrana, Nicholas Coogan, David Kirchner and Mike Richards**

**Ex-officio Members:**

**Present: Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission; Matt Sullivan, Planning Board Liaison**

**Absent: Robert Kempenaar, Town Council Liaison**

**Town Officials: Present: Will Cronin**

**Others Present: George Barcus and Jason Evans (observers)**

## **Agenda**

**Review of Minutes:**

**The minutes of the January 21 meeting were reviewed and approved.**

## **Old Business:**

- **Properties Updates.**

- o **Report of Boulevard/Tibbets Recreation Facility Steering Committee.** The final report of the Steering Committee had been approved and presented to the Town Administrator for review by the Town Council. The Town Council has scheduled public hearings on the plan for March 2 and 16.

- o **The Valley Trails.** A request has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Management for approval of construction of the planned trails; a response has not been received.

- o **Other Parks.** No updates.

- **Capital Project Listing.** Will Cronin reminded the committee that Shawn Brown, Mike Stahl and he had visited all of the park late last year and compiled a list of repair projects and new construction requirements. The following repair projects/construction requirements are estimated to exceed \$25,000 to undertake:

- o **Installation of a sprinkler system on the ball field at Berkeley-Peckham Park and expansion of the walking path behind the park.**

- o **Construction of concrete bathrooms and a walking path at Linden Park.**

- o Install rip-rap at Dunlap-Wheeler Park to prevent further erosion.
- o At Second Beach and the Campground, construct concrete bathrooms at the east and west ends of the beach, install a "Big Voice" speaker system, and solar lights to replace the lights currently on utility poles. He noted that the utility lines in the area will be buried in a fall project.
- o Resurface/repair the basketball court and hockey rink at Howland Park.

He indicated grants may be available/sought to assist with the cost of the installation of rip-rap at Dunlap-Wheeler, and the installation of the "Big Voice" and solar lights at Second Beach.

He stated that he would provide the full list of repair projects/construction requirements to the committee. Mason Hawes indicated that the committee would review the list and provide recommendations.

#### **New Business:**

- Earth Day. A list of possible Earth Day projects provided by Lisa Cinquegrana was reviewed. Two were discussed in some detail.
  - o Designation of Middletown as a "Tree City." Bob Johnson indicated that this had been considered in the past, but that no action had been taken on it. He believed that a review undertaken at the time indicated that Middletown would qualify and would raise the

**matter with the Tree Commission.**

- o A contest for school children to create a design for a reusable shopping bag. This was discussed in connection with the bags provided at Second Beach. This will be discussed further at the March meeting.**

**Ed Sisk, Park Steward at Demery Park, had advised the committee that he had held a clean up last year on Earth Day and intended to do so again this year.**

**Will Cronin advised that the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and the Town of Middletown will host a household hazardous waste and an e-waste recycling Depot collection on April 18 at the Second Beach parking lot.**

- Aquidneck Land Trust Annual Meeting. Committee members were reminded that ALT's annual meeting would be held on February 5, that all were invited, that reservations were required and those should be made as soon as possible.**

- Proposed Agenda Items for March Meeting.**

- o Properties Updates**

- &#61607; Tibbets/Boulevard Steering Committee Update**

- &#61607; The Valley Trails**

- &#61607; Other Parks**

- o Review Capital Project Listing**

**o Earth Day**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown, Rhode Island.

**Ralph Thomas**

**Recording Secretary**